

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants express their appreciation to the Examiner for extending the courtesy of a personal interview on July 26, 2005 and a telephone conversation with Applicants' representative on October 27, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 7-8, 12-14, 16, 19-21, 23, 26-28, and 31-32 of the present application.

Summary of the Response

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 18, 20, 25 and 27 have been amended, and claims 2-3, 10-11, 19, 26 and 33 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1, 4-8, 9, 12-18, 20-25 and 27-32 are pending and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed on September 6, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 18, 22, 24 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,886,745 to Muraji et al. ("Muraji"). The Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 25, and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muraji in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,158 to Abousleman ("Abousleman"). It is noted that claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 18, 20, 25 and 27 have been amended, and claims 2-3, 10-11, 19, 26 and 33 have been canceled. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 15 and 17 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 1 and 9, the Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the cited prior, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests an image interpolating method comprising, among other features, “a first step of calculating an edge component E for judging whether or not an interpolated pixel exists in the vicinity of an edge position of original image data, the edge component E calculated according to the equation $E = -d_3 + d_1 + d_2 - d_4$, wherein d_3 is pixel data for a third original pixel adjacent to the first original pixel, d_4 is pixel data for a fourth original pixel adjacent to the second original pixel, and wherein the first, second, third and fourth original pixels are arranged in a column,” as recited in claims 1 and 9, as amended.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 9 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Each of claims 5, 6, 15 and 17 depends from one of allowable claims 1 or 9, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 9.

Claims 18, 22, 24, 25, 29 and 30 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 18 and 25, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 19 and 26, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Each of claims 22, 24, 29 and 30 depends from one of allowable claims 18 or 25, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 18 and 25.

Claims 4, 7-8, 12-14, 16, 20-21, 23, 27-28, and 31-32 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

As the Examiner indicated in the Office Action, claims 4, 7-8, 12-14, 16, 20-21, 23, 27-28, and 31-32 contain allowable subject matter.

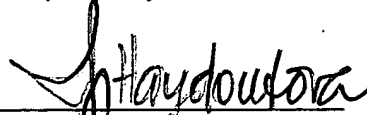
Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107314-00020. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107314-00020.

Respectfully submitted,



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